

I am entering this information for my mother, Martha Hughey. She is a 65-year-old woman, lifelong resident of Indiana. When I advised her that she could block telemarketers with Indiana's Telephone Privacy Act No-Call list, she had me on the computer to enroll her as soon as possible. She was getting two to three calls per night from strangers or machines even though she never ordered any products or gave to any charities over the phone. Six months after I had enrolled her, she has received one unsolicited telephone call. It has been a Godsend to her.

Should the FCC choose to implement a watered-down version of the law, my mother would once again be besieged with unsolicited calls, even if the telemarketers could call "existing" customers. Should my mother ever use a credit card or a check at Sears, for example, she could be called by their 'home improvement' department three times a week (as she was before Indiana's wonderful law).

My mother lives on a fixed income. She feels that the phone is an expensive necessary evil. She also feels that it is an invasion of privacy for the telemarketers to use her money (paid to Ameritech) to bother her mercilessly.

Please do not weaken Indiana's law. While I would love to see a national law in place, the states should have the right to institute a more strict law as well--what comes to mind is the definition of drunken driving, with states being able to decide if .1 or .08 is strict enough or go even lower. Indiana's Telephone Privacy Law has finally allowed my mother to have some peace at home. I would hate to see that taken away from her.